

COMMEMORATION OF ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to mark the anniversary of the Armenian genocide which began on this date ninety-three years ago. From 1915–1923 the Ottoman Empire carried out the deportation of approximately 2 million Armenian men, women, and children from their homeland of which 1.5 million were killed. And to this day, neither the Ottoman nor Turkish governments have been held to account for their involvement.

The 20th century witnessed some of the worst violence and atrocities in history: the attempted extermination of the Jewish people during the Holocaust, Tutsis slaughtering Hutus in Rwanda, Stalin's campaign of mass murder and starvation, the killing fields of Cambodia, and, of course, the Armenian genocide. Millions upon millions of innocent people were killed solely because of the color of their skin, the tribe they belonged to, or the religion they practiced.

As you know, too often in the past the world has stood by or looked the other way when genocide was taking place. And now we see it happening once again in Darfur. We must stop this horrible violence taking place in Sudan at once and make sure genocide is never repeated anywhere around the world. The call of "never again" must not just be exclaimed but rather acted upon.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, today we observe the anniversary of the Armenian genocide, a tragic persecution of Armenians that was both a systematic and intentional ethnic cleansing.

Before this tragedy, Armenians had only limited freedom living under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. Armenians did not have the liberties that Americans consider to be self-evident. In particular, they were limited in public practice of their Christian faith. Because the international community paid little attention, the conditions of Armenians deteriorated throughout the 1800s.

In the late 1800s, the situation became worse. Ottomans began to provoke, exploit, and murder many Armenians. Europe and North America took notice, but were weary of the economic and political consequences of intervening.

On this day in 1915, hundreds of influential and important Armenians were taken from their homes, imprisoned, and stripped of their remaining freedoms. The Ottoman military marched crowds of Armenians to be deported or exterminated. Hundreds of thousands of Armenians were victims of this massacre, and an exact number of casualties is still unknown.

The systematic, state-sponsored extermination of these good, decent people dem-

onstrates the need for protection of individual liberties and from injustice.

Years later, Adolf Hitler referenced the Armenian genocide, "the physical destruction of the enemy," as an example of the rest of the world forgetting or ignoring. My hope is that we can recognize these stains from the past and learn an important lesson from history. We must never forget about those in other lands who do not enjoy the freedoms found in America. We must not forget to stand for what is right and stand beside widows, orphans, and our fellow brothers.

Madam Speaker, today we honor the lives lost during the Armenian genocide and in their memory pledge to protect liberty and freedom by preventing similar injustices in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, due to my attendance at the funerals of two dear friends in my district, I was absent for all twelve recorded votes on Wednesday April 23, 2008 (rollcalls 208–219). I wish to offer the following explanations for how I would have voted.

Had I been present:

On rollcall 208, the motion to adjourn, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall 209, Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 210, Recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 211, Ordering the Previous Question, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 212, the Rule providing for consideration of SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 213, the Matheson amendment, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 214, the Capito amendment, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 215, the Foster amendment, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 216, motion to recommit, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall 217, passage of SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 218, ordering the previous question, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 219, the rule providing for consideration of Coast Guard Authorization Act, I would have voted "aye."

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE
HONORABLE BILL SANDBERG,
MAYOR OF NORTH SAINT PAUL,
MINNESOTA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I come to the floor to speak about my dear friend, my mentor, and a tremendous Minnesota civic leader, Mayor Bill Sandberg of North Saint

Paul. Mayor Sandberg passed away earlier this week to the great sadness to all who loved him and worked with him. For 30 years Bill served as North Saint Paul's mayor and his extraordinary leadership, warm smile and soft laugh will be missed.

Mayor Sandberg was profoundly committed to his family, our community, and his country. Having lived in North Saint Paul and raised my children there, I can say the success and well-being of our city was in large part due to Bill's hard work and his pride in serving his neighbors. Bill loved North Saint Paul and his constituents loved him.

All of us who worked with Bill Sandberg over the years were fortunate and blessed. We are all better for his friendship. In the mid 1980s it was Mayor Sandberg who encouraged me to stay involved in politics after I lost my first election and he created the opportunity for me to enter public life with an appointment to a city committee. Even though he was a Republican and I am Democrat, it didn't matter to Bill who always put public service and common sense first. He went out of his way to work with me and I am a better public official because of him.

In 1987, I was elected to the North Saint Paul City Council where I served with Mayor Sandberg for the next four years. After that, in the Minnesota State House and in Congress, I have had the honor of representing North Saint Paul and working closely with the mayor to keep the city strong and vibrant.

Bill Sandberg was also a devoted family man. His love and lifelong companion, Dolores, was a wonderful person who Bill cared for throughout her life. Bill was also blessed by a loving daughter, Karen, and son-in-law, Jack, have two wonderful children who also loved their grandfather very much.

Madam Speaker, I personally feel a great personal loss with Bill's death and I will miss him profoundly. He was a kind, loving man who was a blessing in my life and the lives of the many who he served over the years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL HATCHETS

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Gene Miller and the Washington High School Hatchets on their 2008 3A Division Indiana State Basketball Championship. The title is their fifth State title in school history and was a fitting conclusion to an outstanding season.

The Hatchets defeated the Fort Wayne Harding High School Hawks in the championship game by a score of 84–60, capping off an impressive 23–2 season.

Their victory is the culmination of years of hard work, dedication and sacrifice. The team and coaching staff have demonstrated outstanding talent and an unwavering commitment to achieving their goals.

The Washington Hatchets are shining examples of the idea that success in life comes to those who are willing to set goals and work hard to achieve them. They are an inspiration to me and everyone in the Washington, Indiana community who have followed their progress this season.

Go Hatchets!